State Governments. In many cases, there was no involvement of the industry at the planning and implementation stages.

- Shortage of resources with the State Government to provide advance money as required under the scheme.
- Protracted delays in acquisition/purchase of land.
- Funding was totally based on Government of India subsidy; virtually no efforts was made for leveraging of market funds to address the infrastructure needs comprehensively.

Financial Assistance to Handloom Weavers

1788. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry provides non-institutional finance for handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, the details of finance provided for the weavers in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Focus on Handloom Sector

1789. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Policy, 2000 encouraged the shift of allocations from handloom sector to powerloom-mill sector in the name of modernization;

(b) if so, whether Government tried to shift the focus on handloom again; and

(c) what is the share of textile exports of handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The handloom sector

also forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000, the details of which are as under :-

The handloom sector is known for its heritage and the tradition of excellent craftsmanship. It provides livelihood to millions of weavers and craftsperson. The industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strength like flexibility of production in small quantitites, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics. Government will continue to accord priority to this sector. Steps would be taken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market. Measure will include the following:-

- Training modules will be developed for weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;
- Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;
- Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;
- The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;
- Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;
- As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures

encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

(c) Due to the absence of sectoral classification such as Mill made, powerloom, handloom etc. in the schedule of revised ITC (HS) codes adopted by the office of the Central Board of Excise and Customs w.e.f. 1.4.03, data for handloom exports could not be generated from 1.4.2003 onwards. As such, share of textile exports of handloom sector is not available from 1.4.2003 onwards. However, during 2002-03, the export of handlooms was Rs. 2633.27 crore as per information furnished by HEPC.

Cotton technology Mission

1790. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Cotton Technology Mission for the development of the cotton industry in the country;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof, and since when the CTM is under implementation;

(c) whether any achievements were made as a result of implementation of CTM;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaints were received with regard to the implementation of Mission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) was launched by the Government of India on 21st February, 2000 with the aim of addressing issues relating to the increase in productivity, improvement of quality and reduction in the cost of production and thus providing the much-needed competitive advantage ofthe textile industry along with ensuring attractive returns to the farmers. The Mission comprises four Mini Missions (MM), which are jointly being implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles, Research and Development on Cotton